

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

*Published Weekly by*

## THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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### Contents for Week of January 28, 1929. Vol. VII. No. 27.

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1. Manchuria Pledged to New China.
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#### SETTING TYPE IN CLASSICAL CHINESE HAS ITS COMPLICATIONS

(See Bulletin No. 2)

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#### HOW TEACHERS MAY OBTAIN THE BULLETINS

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The Geographic News Bulletins are published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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### Manchuria Pledged to New China

**T**HE FLAG of the Nanking, or South China, government has been raised at Mukden, capital of Manchuria.

It was raised by the son of Chang Tso Lin, the former war lord of Manchuria who fought the Southern forces for possession of Peiping (Peking) and lost. The son now pledges the allegiance of Manchuria to the Nanking government.

The State of Texas along with New York and Pennsylvania might be fitted into Manchuria and still leave enough room for New Jersey. With all this vast size, a mixed population of Chinese, Koreans, Japanese, and Russians scarcely numbers fifteen million. So near to China's swarming deltas and Japan's overcrowded islands, it is still a land of great open spaces. This is the significant fact in Manchuria politics.

#### The Land Where Empires Meet

This northern nominal dependency of China is shaped like a giant jaw tooth whose roots touch the Great Wall where it reaches the sea and whose crown forms the south bank of the Amur River. This tooth is the wedge which separates Russia and Mongolia on the one side and Japanese Korea on the other. It is a land where empires meet, and, having met, build railroads.

Manchuria is better served in the matter of railway lines than any other part of China. After the treaty of Portsmouth, which ended the Russo-Japanese War, the railways were divided. Japan took over matters in the root of the tooth and Russia those in the crown. So it stands to-day except that Russian interests have passed back into the hands of the Chinese. Japan still maintains her own rights in the leased territory surrounding Port Arthur and Dairen and along the railway concession running north.

Dairen, Manchuria's chief seaport, has been largely Japanese built and resembles other cities of Japan except that it is worked out on a more modern and magnificent scale. Its docks and harbor equipment are comparable with those of the great seaports of the world.

#### Soy Beans, Carpets, Pig Bristles and Furs

Mukden, the provincial capital, lies in the plains of central Manchuria and is the focal point of three empires. Here the Chinese and Japanese and Europeans each have their distinct cities, three in one. Harbin, the metropolis of the north, is purely Russian. It lies on the banks of the Sungari River at the point of change from trans-Siberian trains to the southern connections with Peiping and Tokyo. Harbin now shelters great numbers of exiles from the old regime in Russia.

Manchuria, like New England, is the land of the bean, this time the soy bean. Beans, bean oil, and bean cake, or leavings from the oil process, are chief exports. Wool carpets and pig bristles also figure on the export lists. Mukden is one of the fur markets of the world. Buyers for New York firms have warehouses there. The trade is not only brisk in fox, squirrel, marten, and sable, but also in dog and goat, to be used in imitations at home.

Chinese in Manchuria are, as a rule, not native sons. They have immigrated hither from all parts of China, driven from their homes by war and famine. The recent shortage of food in Shantung has sent millions of farmers and laborers from that province alone. The movement has at times assumed the proportions



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#### BLACK KNIGHTS OF THE NIGER

Among the multitude which welcomed a recent French expedition at Niamey, administrative capital of a district on the Niger, were three horsemen wearing coats of mail and having as headdresses feathered helmets. They carried swords with cross-shaped guards in their right hands and shields on their left sides. It was as if they had borrowed their style of equipment direct from Richard Coeur de Lion, the famous Black Knight of "Ivanhoe" (See Bulletin No. 4).

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### New Boundaries, Migrations and Language Changes of 1928

**S**HIFTS in international real estate, which leave some nations with more and some with less territory, occurred in 1928.

In South America a boundary "sore spot" was eliminated with the cession of the Putumayo region by Colombia to Peru. The area of Peru has been increased 13,000 square miles by the award of this tropic, forested upland on the east flanks of the Andes. Brazil and Bolivia adjusted their boundaries in the Gran Chaco region, Brazil taking 1,235 square miles and Bolivia 154 square miles.

Failure of similar negotiations last July between Bolivian and Paraguayan representatives at Buenos Aires on the question of arbitrating the Gran Chaco boundary served as a prelude to the clash of military forces in December. Another unsettled South American boundary problem remains at Tacna. Bolivia presented a petition to the Havana Pan-American Conference for a territorial corridor to the sea through Tacna, ownership of which is now disputed by Chile and Peru.

#### Colombia and Nicaragua Divide Pirate Islands

In Central America, Honduras and Guatemala discussed an agreement to arbitrate their 398-year-old boundary contention. The United States, Nicaragua and Colombia reached an agreement on the disposition of a handful of pirate islands in the western Caribbean Sea. The northern group, comprising Quita Sueno, Serrana and the Roncador banks and keys, are claimed by the United States and Colombia. It was agreed that Colombia shall raise no objection to the United States maintaining lighthouses on the islands and that the Colombians may fish on the banks. The middle group goes to Colombia, while the third group, Great Corn and Little Corn, goes to Nicaragua. The Corn Islands command the proposed entrance to the much debated Nicaraguan Canal. Colombia also gave up claims to the Mosquito coast.

In Europe, Sweden and Finland have come to an agreement on their boundary line where it reaches the Baltic Sea, but two minor questions, one of them the Aland Sea boundary, remain unsettled. France and Switzerland have been endeavoring to solve the issue of free trade zones in Gex and Haute-Savoie, a very important question for Switzerland because of Geneva's economic dependence on these neighboring French provinces. The question of autonomy for Croatia has been raised at Belgrade, capital of Yugoslavia, and the right to Vilna and its countryside is still a subject of dissension between Poland and Lithuania. Hungary has asked the League of Nations for a slice of land on the west of its present boundary. However, definite progress toward Balkan peace seems to have been accomplished by Greece making Saloniki a free port, thus providing a much needed trade outlet to the Aegean Sea for Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. The Soviet Government maintains that the ownership of Bessarabia, now in the possession of Rumania, is still an open question.

#### Portugal and Belgium Trade Territory in Africa

To a conference among representatives of Great Britain, France, Spain and Italy on international questions relating to Morocco and the international city of Tangier, the United States Government sent a note which said that it presumed the "open door" policy would be maintained. France continued its pacification of Morocco, securing submission in 1928 of the country of the Ida-ou-Tanan tribes

Bulletin No. 2, January 28, 1929 (over).



of a national march. On the other hand, heavy drafts of men and taxes have gone from Manchuria to supply the northern war lord's armies. Under such conditions a naturally rich country has been bled as by an open sore to fight battles farther south. Peace is the magic word for its rich farms and mines alike.

**Bulletin No. 1, January 28, 1929.**



© Photograph by Eugene Lee Stewart

**MONGOLIANS ARE AN ELEMENT OF THE POPULATION OF  
MANCHURIA**

The wealth of Mongolians living in the plains is reckoned not in real estate, but in live stock. These children, as the heirs of an average family, will possess fifty sheep, twenty-five horses, fifteen cows and oxen, and ten camels. Next to cattle-breeding the most important occupation of this people is the transport of products.

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### Burry Port and Llanelly, Where Welsh Miners Go Hungry

THE PRINCE OF WALES fund for relief of unemployed miners in Wales again directs attention to those two Welsh towns made famous by a transatlantic flight.

Burry Port was the landing place of the *Friendship*, the seaplane in which Amelia Earhart crossed the Atlantic. At Llanelly, 3 miles farther within Burry Inlet, the *Friendship's* flyers looked for additional fuel.

Burry Port and Llanelly are in the poverty stricken region of Wales. They are important shipping points for steam coal, but since ships have turned to crude oil for fuel, these ports and the Welsh coal mining region have suffered a severe decline in trade. Hundreds of thousands of miners are out of work.

#### Swansea, Port of Refineries, Nearby

Had the *Friendship* flown 10 miles farther, across a narrow peninsula, it would have come to rest more appropriately in Swansea harbor, at a port which is one of the principal seats of Great Britain's great petroleum refining industry. A flight of 110 miles beyond Burry Port and Llanelly would have taken the plane to Southampton, the original objective.

To locate Burry Port and Llanelly on a map of England, find Lands End, southwesternmost point of England. A hundred miles north, across Bristol Channel, is a corresponding peninsula, the southwestern tip of Wales. Just east of the point of this peninsula is Carmarthen Bay, on the north shore of Bristol Channel. Burry Inlet, in which Miss Earhart's plane came to rest, leads eastward off Carmarthen Bay. Burry Port is given over chiefly to the shipment of anthracite coal, which is mined a short distance inland.

Llanelly is a sizable town of approximately 40,000 inhabitants with extensive docks and in good times is a busy shipping point. Coal is the chief commodity shipped. Both towns are on one of the chief British railways, which extends from London through Wales to Fishguard Harbor, whence ferries ply to Ireland.

#### "The Metal-Working Capital of the World"

Swansea has a population of more than 150,000. It has been called "the metal-working capital of the world." An endless stream of ships brings to Swansea the ores of iron, copper, tin, zinc, nickel, cobalt, and others. In the city's smelters they are refined, and in its factories the resulting metals are worked into useful articles. In recent years tank steamers bearing crude petroleum have joined the procession of ships to Swansea, and there has grown up a huge oil refining industry.

Much of the north shore of Burry Inlet, near which the *Friendship* landed, is a desolate appearing stretch of sand hills interspersed with marshes. The inlet is reasonably well protected and in general a good landing place for a plane equipped with pontoons, as was Miss Earhart's.

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southwest of Marrakesh. Farther east Italy and France are reported to have reached an agreement by which certain territorial changes in the southwest boundary of Tripolitania will be made in exchange for the surrender of Italy's claims for special privileges for Italians in Tunisia territory. A government commission has recently returned to London to report its investigation of the proposal to unify Kenya Colony, Uganda, Tanganyika, and Nyasaland into a British dominion of East Africa. Portugal gave Belgium three square kilometers near Matadi at the mouth of the Congo in exchange for the "Dilolo Boot" in western Angola.

In Asia, Transjordan, by a new treaty with Great Britain, agreed to accept British military protection at local expense and to receive a British representative at Amman. The Transjordan capital a few months later was the scene of an assemblage of the chiefs of desert tribes of Syria, Jebel Druz and Transjordan for the purpose of signing a peace treaty. The neighboring country of Iraq, also a League of Nations mandate, has been given a new and more nearly independent status under a new pact with Great Britain. Persia's claims to Abbadan Island and Bahrein Island, both in the Persian Gulf, have been a subject of diplomatic discussions between Great Britain and Persia. At the other end of Asia the South China Government by its military victory over the northern forces was able to advance the boundary of China under one government north to the Great Wall. At the close of the year the Manchurian war lord raised the Nanking government's flag at Mukden.

Outside the continents there have been other changes. The Soviet Government has reasserted its claim to Franz Josef Land. The Netherlands and the United States arbitrated the ownership of Palmas Island, on the southeast fringe of the Philippines, with the result that it was given to The Netherlands. Norway took the final step toward annexing Bouvet and Thompson Islands, two lonely specks of land in the South Atlantic Ocean. Canada sustained a "paper loss" of about 7,000 square miles of Baffin Land when an explorer's ship sailed across an area which had appeared on the maps as land.

#### **Chinese Move to Manchuria, Irish to Scotland, Japanese to Brazil**

In addition to purely territorial shifts, there have been other important geographic events in 1928. The migration of Chinese north into Manchuria has assumed enormous proportions. The estimates vary from two to four millions. The migration is one of the largest in the history of the world. Another migration occurred in South West Africa, where a colony of Boers, who years ago fled from the British into Portuguese Angola, trekked back into British South West Africa to take up broad farms offered to them. Scotland debates raising quota bars against the Irish who are coming across the Irish Sea in great numbers. More Japanese families have been going to Brazil, and reports from the Near East record an important shift of Syrians and Lebanese into Iraq.

China and Angola established new capitals, the former at Nanking, the latter at Nova Lisboa.

Nineteen twenty-eight was a big year for language and alphabetical changes. Turkey has adopted Latin letters in place of the old Arabic script. Azerbaijan, a province of the Soviet in the Caucasus Mountains, and certain Turkestan districts likewise began to use Latin letters. In China multi-charactered Chinese has been simplified into a language of only 1,300 characters. The new language has been broadcast over the nation in the form of millions of primers. Pidgin English has been made an official language in New Guinea. The vigorous movement in Germany directed toward a surrender of the complicated Gothic letters in favor of the simpler Roman letters is making great strides in newspaper and magazine publishing fields and in business correspondence.

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### France Considers a Railroad across the Sahara

ONCE again the trans-Sahara railroad comes to the fore in France. This time it appears as an item of a program of commercial and industrial development which the ministry has proposed.

A trans-Saharan railroad can be visualized as a steel cable fastened to Algeria. Dangling at the end of it is a French dominion almost as large as Canada with a population twice that of France itself. The Niger River country, across the Sahara from Algeria, expects to become France's cotton south. A recently completed barrage has for the first time turned the Niger into the thirsty cottonfields in one section.

Early last year the Chamber of Deputies voted the equivalent of \$500,000 for a preliminary survey of a railroad from Tuggurt across the Sahara to Wagadugu.

#### Similar to America's March Westward to the Pacific

The Tuggurt-Wagadugu and Sahara railroad is an enterprise comparable to the building of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States. France's problem is similar, in some respects, to that of the United States in joining the settled East with the pioneer West. The distance from Tuggurt to Wagadugu is the same as from St. Joseph, Missouri, to San Francisco. Whitening ox and buffalo bones marked the route west—whitening bones of camels and men mark the caravan and future railroad route south through the Sahara. The goal of the American railroad was gold; the goal of the French project is cotton.

The water-holes in our western trails find a counterpart in the Sahara's oases and wells. The frontier fort protected against the Apache as the Saharan white-walled "bordj" guards against raids of desert marauders. France, studying America's Indian problem, already debates methods of preserving from civilization's advance the Tuaregs, that picturesque and fierce Berber tribe whose men wear veils yet carry spears and leather shields in the style of Crusader days.

The United States' transcontinental lines had to cross the Rockies and the Sierra Nevadas; France must drive her railroad across the Hoggars, whose peaks rise 8,000 feet in the mid-Sahara. And as Americans braved Death Valley, the French must brave the Tanzezruft, which swallows up whole caravans.

The objection to this comparison which naturally arises is that North America's arid regions are not nearly so dry as the Sahara's. That is true, with reservations. The Sahara must not be thought of as a sea of sand. Dunes dominate but one-tenth of the entire area of the Sahara Desert. Rather the Sahara is a sealess seashore offering all the variety between a smooth "Daytona Beach" and a rock-bound New England Coast.

#### Date Palms Drink from an Underground River

In some regions rain comes but once in eight or ten years. The plants adapt themselves to long waits between drinks. Rain promptly sinks to underground rivers. In-Salah, which will be a sort of Salt Lake City on the French railroad, supports thousands of date palms with water from such an underground river.

What will New France be when a trans-Saharan railroad with extensions consolidates the mother country and colonies?

First there is France proper, about the size of New England and our Middle Atlantic States. Twenty-four hours south of Marseille lies Algiers, the chief port

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© Photograph by Robert Reid

#### NOT A COAL MINE, BUT A SLATE QUARRY

The slate quarries near Bethesda, three miles from Bangor, Wales, are said to be the largest in the world. Only a small section of the terraces appear in this photograph. There are literally mountains of slate in Wales. The slate center of our State of Pennsylvania has also been named Bangor.

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### Why Mexico Builds a Road to Guadalajara

**T**HREE major projects are features of the Mexican highway program: first, completion of the highway from the capital to Nuevo Laredo on the United States border; second, from Mexico City to Vera Cruz; third, from Mexico City to Guadalajara.

Guadalajara, Mexico's second city, has a population of 150,000 and is capital of the rich state of Jalisco. The city's name means "Rocky River," a Moorish appellation taken from another town in old Spain. The Mexican city, lying at an elevation of more than 5,000 feet above sea level, is one of the most healthful, cleanest, and most pleasant provincial capitals in the land.

Guadalajara has streets paved with gold. Refuse from an old gold mine was mixed with the paving asphalt. Later it was discovered that these despised scrapings contained precious yellow metal and that \$6,000 worth had been used in laying streets. Thus the ancient romance of this plateau city was brought up to date.

### Trees Are Green and Flowers Bloom the Year Round

Saved from tropical heat by its elevation, Guadalajara yet possesses a climate sufficiently warm for its houses to be without chimneys. They are built in hollow squares around open patios. Trees are always green, flowers bloom in profusion the year round, and birds from as far north as Canada and Alaska migrate thither for the winter months.

Life in Guadalajara centers around numerous open squares, chief among which is the Plaza Mayor, where the band plays after dinner in the evenings to a gay audience of promenaders. On Sunday nights a line of benches separates the space occupied by the elite from the common people.

Here, also, after church on Sunday drive the beautiful *senoritas* with their chaperones, to the delight of admirers in other conveyances or on foot. Guadalajara is noted for its beautiful girls, many of whom have brown or blond hair. This is accounted for by their reputed descent from the ancient aristocracy of Spain, whose blood has been kept pure in the new country.

### Wealthy Often Go to California Resorts

Facing the Plaza Mayor is the elaborate façade of a sixteenth century cathedral which contains one of the city treasures, an original painting by Murillo. The painting was presented during the campaigns of Napoleon by Charles IV of Spain in gratitude for support from the cathedral chapter. Napoleon III tried in vain to purchase it, and many attempts have been made to steal the painting.

The city's factories and neighborhood mines support a large and wealthy resident society, whose beautiful homes adorn the suburbs. Direct rail communication with Los Angeles and San Francisco along Mexico's west coast brings many visitors from this class to the resorts of southern California.

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of French North Africa, which is a domain as large as the American Middle West and South. French North Africa borders on French West Africa, a raw pioneer country of untapped resources divided into the colonies of Senegal, French Sudan, Upper Volta, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Mauretania and Niger. Still farther south and east is the great jungle possession of French Equatorial Africa.

When all this territory knits together with the iron thread of railroads, France will be 5,000 miles long and 3,000 miles wide. Measured by America, the empire which France would unify stretches a distance equal to that from the Straits of Belle Isle north of Newfoundland to Pernambuco, Brazil. At its widest the empire is nearly the distance from New York to San Francisco.

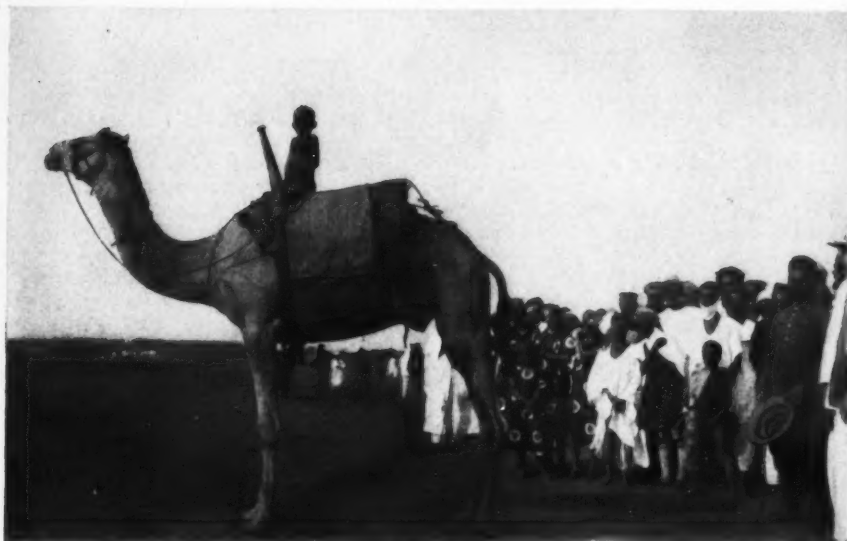
### **"The Sand Dune Express" to the Glories of the Desert**

In 1898 a French expedition from Algiers took two years to reach the Niger. The annual camel caravan from Timbuktu reaches Tuggurt in seven to eight months. In 1924 an expedition of four specially constructed tractors crossed the desert in the remarkable time of twenty days. They followed the route which the railroad probably will take. Indeed the stations on the future railroad are fixed now—have been fixed for centuries by wells and springs. The "Sand Dune Express" should make the trip in four days at the most.

North Africa has already lured the winter tourist. A railroad through the Sahara may call him south. Parts of the desert are drab and dull; other parts are bewilderingly beautiful, especially at dawn, at sunset and in the moonlight. One traveler says no one who has not been in the Sahara under a full moon can understand the word "silence." Silence becomes something tangible, a force like gravitation, or temperature. Bluish moonlight bathes the infinite plains and the immobile gray rocks.

At sunrise the dunes become pink, mauve and blue. Some seem to be lacquered or enameled; others tremble in the morning light like living things. On the horizon the dunes seem to hover above the solid ground like inflated sails.

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**NIGER BOY TAKING A FIRST LESSON IN CAMEL RIDING**



© Photograph by Gomez Gallardo

#### YOUNG PEOPLE OF GUADALAJARA IN THE OLD SPANISH COSTUMES

There is more of the atmosphere of Old Spain in the capital of the state of Jalisco than in any other city in Mexico. The women of the better class, whose beauty has made Guadalajara famous, drive up and down the main street, from the cathedral to the plaza, on Sunday afternoons.



